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tinctis"). The identification appeared to me tolerably certain, but to make assurance doubly sure, I dispatched to Waco a particular inquiry as to the color of the fresh blossoms. The reply ran in this satisfactory manner: "The tips to the petals of the water-lily were decidedly purplish; the half-open buds were deep lavender, lighter at the base. The lines on the sepals are purple instead of brown. The plant is plentiful in one place near Waco." Upon the whole, therefore, I feel fully justified in announcing the re-discovery, after nearly forty years, of one of the rarest and most beautiful plants in the whole North American flora.

E. E. STERNS.

Botanizing in the Strait of Magellan.

BY W. E. SAFFORD, U. S. N.

The latitude of Cape Virgin, at the eastern entrance to the Strait of Magellan, is $32^{\circ} 20'$ south, or only two hundred miles farther away from the Equator than the boundary line between the northwestern portion of our country and British Columbia. The distance in a straight line between the eastern and western extremities of the strait is two hundred and forty miles; but, owing to the crookedness of the channel, which is somewhat V-shaped, the length of the route which a vessel must travel in passing through it is a little greater than three hundred miles. The climate of the region, though remarkably mild, if compared with that of the same latitude on the east coast of North America, differs but little from that of the corresponding region on the west coast, either in its equable temperature or its excessive dampness. Snow and hail often fall even in mid-summer, yet this is owing to the effect of the high snow-capped mountains of the region upon the moisture-laden winds from the west. The average temperature of the winter months is higher than the freezing point of water, although, of course, the thermometer often falls much below this.

Shortly after leaving the estuary of the Plata we encountered large floating patches of the giant kelp, *Macrocystis pyrifera*, which plainly indicated a current from the south. This species, so abundant on the Pacific coast of the United States, is the most common alga in the Strait of Magellan and in the chan-

nels which border the western shore of Patagonia. It is widely spread in antarctic waters, and extends northward along the coasts of Chili and Peru at least as far as Ancon. It may be described as consisting of a long, round, leathery stem, bearing alternate, simple, flat fronds, the petioles of which (if I may so term them) dilate into hollow pear-shaped floats.

We sighted Cape Virgin at one o'clock on the afternoon of November 20th. We stood in for the entrance of the strait, and before sunset were snugly at anchor behind Point Dungeness.

On the ledges of this point many cormorants, gulls, petrels and other sea-birds were perched; at its base a heavy surf was breaking, and with a glass we could see a line of penguins drawn up as though in battle array, stationed to defend the entrance to the strait.

The following morning we proceeded up to Gregory Bay, where we were detained for several days by a strong wind from the westward. At this place the scenery is neither picturesque nor in any way striking. From the water's edge a broad plain extends back for several miles to a line of flat-topped hills, which form the escarpment of the great Patagonian plateau. Not far from the shore a number of fresh-water ponds, or lakes, occur, which are frequented by numerous water-fowl. Not a tree was visible. With the glass we could make out a few bushes and some dark green patches of vegetation, which here and there interrupted a monotonous expanse of brown grass. A number of sheep were feeding on the plain, and to the left of our anchorage there was a dwelling-house surrounded by several sheds, evidently erected for their protection in winter.

We soon formed a party for visiting the shore, some of the officers taking their shot-guns, others carrying rifles, and I with my botany case. As we approached the shore the hills in the background appeared to recede from us. Along the beach pretty gray plovers and noisy black and white oyster-catchers were running, and when we landed a number of song-sparrows and a red-breasted meadow-lark started up from the grass, singing as they flew. Spread over the plain were thousands of silky-fleeced sheep with long thick tails, each ewe with one or two newly born lambs. It was a bright springlike day, with only one or

two small rain clouds in the sky, yet the wind was blowing a moderate gale.

From the very water's edge the ground was covered with myriads of beautiful flowers—patches of pink-tipped sea-thrift, fragrant drooping lilies, yellow violets and *Calceolarias*, white *Cerastium*, daisy-like composites, and clumps of a prickly-leaved plant not yet in bloom. The sea-thrift, *Armeria vulgaris*, I at first mistook for a composite. It has a globular head of "everlasting" flowers, bearing a general resemblance to *Gnaphalium*, supported on a slender stem which rises from a mass of linear grass-like leaves. It belongs to the Plumbaginaceæ, the family including the *Statice* of our sea-shore. The lily-like plant proved to be an ally of *Sisyrinchium*. It was *Symphystemon narcisoides*: its flowers, like those of a day-lily in shape, drooped in a graceful umbel; some of them were pure white, while others were delicately penciled with purple. The *Calceolaria* (*C. nana*) is a fragile little plant, bearing a comparatively large flower, somewhat like a *Cypripedium*, on a short herbaceous stem which rises from a rosette of radical ovate leaves. The lower edge of the opening in its yellow corolla is bordered by a white waxy lip, and the inner surface is speckled with brown. The *Cerastium* proved to be the common *C. arvense*; the daisy-like composite was probably a dwarf *Erigeron*; and the prickly-leaved plant is, I think, *Homoianthus echinulatus*, a species which Professor Cunningham collected on the opposite Fuegian shore. I collected also a yellow *Senecio*, very much like *S. Chilensis*; and close to the shore grew a plant not yet in bloom, with large leaves covered with white wool, which I think is a second species of the same genus (*S. candicans*).

A little further inland I found a yellow *Geum* (*G. Magellanicum*), a vetchling (*Lathyrus Magellanicus*), *Valeriana carnosus*, a small crucifer (*Draba*?), *Phacelia circinata*, a Hydrophyllaceous plant also occurring in North America, and *Acæna adscendens*, a species widely distributed in antarctic regions.

Climbing in a barberry bush, I found a *Galium*, and at its base the common Shepherds-purse, the widely-spread *Anemone decapetala*, L. (*A. Caroliniana*, Walt.), and a delicate *Oxalis* (*O. enneaphylla*) with rose-tinted corolla, closed when I found it, like

the gentian, and with leaves not three parted as in all the species of the genus which I had before seen, but divided into nine or ten narrow segments which radiated into the form of a pretty star.

I had now reached a gentle slope covered with a green carpet of low heath-like shrubs, bearing fruit very much like cranberries and small, stiff glossy leaves. These were of three species: *Pernettya mucronata* and *Pernettya pumila*, ericaceous plants belonging to the same tribe as *Arctostaphylos*; and *Empetrum nigrum*, var. *rubrum*, a red variety of the common crow-berry, the typical form of which is widely spread in arctic and alpine regions in Europe, Asia and North America. I found but two other shrubs at Gregory Bay; *Berberis dulcis*, var. *buxifolia*, and *Chilobothrium amelloides*, a composite growing about eight feet high, with large white-rayed heads of flowers, which were beginning to bloom at the time of our arrival.

On reaching the top of the slope I stopped and concealed myself behind a bush; for only a few yards away from me were two young foxes playing before the entrance of their den. As I stood watching them their mother came up with some object in her mouth, which she laid down before them. The little creatures could not have been more than a month old, yet, young as they were, they immediately began snarling and fighting for the possession of the object. When I started toward them, however, to see what it was, they both dropped it and scampered into their hole. It was a small mole-like animal with fine, soft fur, *Ctenomys Magellanica*, which Darwin, in his Journal, calls "Tucutuco." I afterwards noticed many acres which were undermined by its burrows.

From the knoll on which I was standing, two small lakes could be seen, one of them gleaming in the sunshine like burnished silver, the other stretching out like a sheet, its surface ruffled only by the swallows which were skimming above it. Around the shores several pairs of wild geese were feeding on the crow-berries, wild celery, and other plants. They allowed me to approach quite near to them, but suddenly a pair of lap-wings flew up from a bed of rushes, screaming so loudly that the geese were frightened away.

The lake which shone so brightly was nearly dry. I found

that its luster was due to the reflection of the sunlight from the smooth, glossy leaves of a species of *Ranunculus* or *Caltha*, somewhat like *R. Ficaria*. In the second lake I collected several marsh plants: the common mares-tail (*Hippuris vulgaris*), a water mil-foil (*Myriophyllum elatinoides*), *Limosella aquatica*, a small yellow-flowered *Ranunculus*, and a species of *Sphagnum* not in fruit. Around the lake grew a number of sedges, rushes and a handsome grass, from which some wren-like birds flew up, as I waded through it. Near by in a barberry thicket a jet black starling or troupial was hopping restlessly about, and a pair of fly-catchers were building their nest, the male jet black, with a mantle of russet-red, the female with a much lighter, faded-looking dress.

On returning to the boat, which had been drawn up on the beach, I found that our sailors had been amusing themselves by killing a skunk. This they had accomplished without unpleasant consequences by keeping well to the windward while they stoned the animal to death. A fire was now started under the lea of the boat, the dried *Macrocystis* strewn upon the beach making excellent fuel, and while some of the sailors were preparing coffee, I busied myself collecting algæ along the beach.

Among the red foliaceous forms were a handsome *Delesseria*, the brightly colored *Callophyllis variegata*, so abundant on our Pacific coast, and *Ptilonia Magellanica*, which is somewhat similar. I collected also an exquisitely delicate *Plocamium*, a dense feathery *Ptilota*, *Ceramium rubrum*, *C. diaphanum*, *Codium tomentosum*, and the coarse *Durvillæa utilis*, which somewhat resembles a giant *Laminaria*. Among the green species were the common *Ulva lactuca*, *Enteromorpha compressa* and a tufted *Cladophora*; and to complete the list I will mention *Porphyra laciniata* and the common *Rhodomenia palmata*, both of which were abundant.

The hunters now returned loaded down with as much game as they and their men could carry. They had killed quantities of geese, ducks and snipe, besides a number of smaller birds and several foxes. Lieutenant Garvin, our navigator, brought me also a few plants from the distant hills. The most interesting of them was *Embothrium coccineum*, a shrub belonging to the Proteaceæ, bearing dense terminal clusters of crimson tubular flowers.

We had all spent a most delightful day, and were well satisfied with the results of our expedition. I could not help regretting, however, in going back to the ship, that the shortness of our stay would not permit me to thoroughly explore a field so inviting. I almost envied the shepherd who lived in the little cottage; yet, strange though it may seem, the good man was very anxious to leave it for the haunts of civilization.

On the 25th we weighed anchor and proceeded up to Sandy Point.

(To be continued.)

Anthophyta for Phænogamia.

In view of the general adoption of a uniform terminology in the great classes of plants, and to make the names uniform throughout, I would suggest that the term ANTHOPHYTA be used instead of the old *Phænogamia*. We should then have Protophyta, Zygomphyta, Oöphyta, Carpophyta, Bryophyta, Pteridophyta and Anthophyta. Dr. Bessey informs me that Oken first suggested the term about seventy years ago, for the Dicotyledons, and that Luerssen, in 1882, used it as a synonym for Phænogamia. I was not aware of these facts when I suggested the term to Dr. Bessey. He says he would be in favor of the change. The word suggested is more appropriate than the old one.

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Index to Recent American Botanical Literature.

Asperifoliæ.—*Some West American*. III. Edward L. Greene. (Pittonia, i., pp. 107-120).

This part deals with the genus *Cryptanthæ* of Lehmann, 1832, antedating *Krynitzkia* of Fischer and Meyer by nine years. The species written up under the latter generic name by Dr. Gray in the supplement to the Synoptical Flora all become *Cryptanthæ*. Professor Greene describes, as well, seven new ones which have never had any names at all, making the total number known to him forty-six, including six from Chili.

Big Trees of California.—*Age of the*. (Gard. Mon., xxix., p. 376).

Mr. Meehan presents damaging evidence against the notion